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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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FWS PLANS HEAVY CATCHABLE-SIZE TROUT PLANTING IN 1956

The Fish and Wildlife Service hopes to plant 6,000,000 catchable-size trout in waters on Federal lands and in waters near Federal installations during the 1956 fishing season, Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay said today. This is 60 percent above the plant of 1954 and considerably higher than the 1955 distribution although these latter figures are not yet available.

The Service is carrying out a \$665,000 construction program during the year, the Secretary said. The big construction job for the year is the trout hatchery at Norfolk, Arkansas, which will cost \$455,000. The money has been appropriated and construction will begin in about two months. The work should be finished by the end of 1957.

Other construction jobs include a \$55,000 combination holding-house for warm water fish, and a food processing plant for trout at the North Attleboro, Massachusetts, hatchery; \$60,000 for eight additional acres of ponds at Millen, Georgia; \$30,000 to improve the water supply at Welaka, Florida and \$40,000 for the replacement of wornout facilities at Springville, Utah. In addition the Service is protecting its water supply with a \$12,000 land acquisition at Cortland, New York; spending \$12,000 to improve the grounds at the Pittsford, Vermont, hatchery and expending a thousand dollars at Quilcene, Washington, for administrative reasons.

At the present time the Fish and Wildlife Service is operating 91 hatcheries. Of these slightly more than half are used for the production of trout. Twenty-seven hatcheries are used exclusively for trout production and several others are used for both trout and warm water fish.

In order to keep abreast of the increasing fishing pressure, the Fish and Wildlife Service some years ago established the policy of planting as many catchable-size trout as possible. The production of this size trout has accelerated in the last three years and this year is expected to smash all previous records by a considerable margin.

The latest complete figures available are for the calendar year 1954. These show that the Service distributed 756,521 pounds or 3,830,640 catchable-size trout that year. This is a 25 percent increase over the distribution of trout in 1953, which in turn was considerably above the 1952 plant.

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